THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) There is no such policy.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Progress made in Evaluation and Negotiations with the Bidders to Develop Oil Fields

1779. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2938 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 1993 and state:

(a) what are the details of the progress so far made in the evaluation and negotiations with the bidders of 117 bids received from Indian and foreign companies for the exploration and development of medium and small-sized oil fields;

(b) whether any contracts have so far been finalised after completing negotiations with the bidders, if so, what are the details in this regard in respect of each case; and

(c) what are the details of progress relating to each medium and small-sized oil fields in respect of which contracts have so far been awarded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Government have approved the finalisation of contracts for the following six small-sized fields:

(i) Bakrol (ii) Lohar (iii) Bhandut (iv) Cambay (v) Matar (vi) Sabarmati. The contracts with the parties are yet to be signed.

More Gas from Off-Shore Tapti

1780. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMAN BHAI PETEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more gas is likely to be available from off-shore Tapti structure than orginally anticiated;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of gas likely to be produced form Tapti; and

(c) Whether it is costlier to bring Tapti gas to Hazira than to pipeway in Saurashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The projected plateau production from Mid and South Tapti fields is 4.03 $mm^3/_d$.

(c) The decision to bring gas from mid Tapti and South Tapti fields to Hazira has been taken to meet the commitments already made ex-Hazira and along the HRJ pipeline.

Putting out of Foreign Oil Companies from Fourth round of Bidding

1781. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreign oil companies which succeeded in the fourth round of bidding for oil exploration in the country have pulled out;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is its likely impact on the oil exploration programme; and

(d) what further steps are proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Government

have approved the finalisation of production sharing contracts in respect of six blocks under the Fourth Round of bidding. Contracts with two foreign bidders could not be finalised as they put forward unacceptable conditions.

(c) and (d) There will not be any impact on the oil exploration programme in the country. Negotiations for finalising the contract are to be held with one of the original bidders *viz.* M/s. Shell, for the block RJ-ON-90/1. The block BB-OS-90/4 has been offered again under the Sixth Round of bidding.

Surveys for Oil and Gas Reserves

1782. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted surveys to find out the oil and natural gas reserves in the country during 1992-93;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the places where possibility of oil and natural gas reserves have been identified, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken for its exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year ONGC and OIL have carried out a total of 63338.225 SLK/CLK of 2D seismic syrvey and 5613.490 Sq. Kms./SSK of 3D Seismic surveys.

(c) and (d) After above seismic date is acquired it will be processed and interpreted to identify suitable locations forexploratory drilling. This is an on going process and each prospect is evaluated on its merits.

Retails Outlets in Andhra Pradesh

1783. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets of various petroleum products are sanctioned in Andhra Pradesh under the discretion of the Minister, during the last Five Years; and

(b) what are the names and details of the beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Government have allotted 47 dealerships/ distributorships of petroleum products to different persons in Andhra Pradesh since April, 1989 till date, udner discretionary powers.

Hinduja's for setting up Refinery in Orissa

1784. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Letter of Intent was issued to Hindujas, an NRI Group, to set up a refinery in Orissa.

(b) if so, the details of the projects; and

(c) what is Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) A Letter of Intent has been issued to M/s Ashok Leyland on 14.8.1992 for setting up an oil refinery of 6 MMTPA capacity at Paradeep in Orissa. It is for M/s. Ashok Leyland to implement the L.O.I.